Conversion of Manmad-Parbhani-Purli Rail Line

505. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that revised cost of Manmad-Parbhani-Purli meter gauge to broad gauge conversion project has been increased;

(b) if so, what is the extent of increase;

(c) what is progress made so far in this regard; and

(d) whether this project will be completed as per schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The conversion project was approved in 1974-75 at then estimated cost of Rs. 28.00 crore. Revised estimated for the entire project has not yet been prepared.

(c) and (d) Work is taken up in Ist Phase between Manmad and Aurangabad. Completion of this project will depend on availability of resources in the coming years.

S.T.D. Connections During 1987

506. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new cities proposed to be linked with S.T.D. in the year, 1987; and

(b) whether backward areas are given priority in giving connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Fourteen new cities are prosped to be linked with STD during the remaining period of the year, 1987.

(b) In backward areas all the district headquarters and exchanges of 1,000 lines and above are considered for provision of STD facility on priority.

Development of Civil Aviation Industry

507. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whethr it is a fact that the Government has developed a long term perspective for the development of the civil aviation industry in the country;

(b) if so, what are the broad details of the requirements forecast for civil aviation for the coming years in terms of financial outlays envisaged, number and types of aircraft expected to be imported/ manufactured, number of stations to be linked and their sector-wise location; and

(c) the details of projections for the development of aviation for tourism, agriculture, relief and emergency services, law and order and taxi services, particularly induction of helicopters in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission has constituted a Steering Committee for preparation of a long term plan for transport development in the perspective 2000 A.D. The Steering Committee in turn has constituted a number of specialised groups for study of various modes of transport. The report of the Planning Group on civil aviation headed by Shri J.R.D. Tata has identified the requirements in terms of development of airports and airport facilities, airline infrastructure, manpower development and increasing productivity and efficiency in the civil aviation sector.

The report of this group is being examined by the Steering Committee with a view to prepare a long term plan.